

**United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management**

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**Categorical Exclusion  
DOI-BLM-CO-SO50-2015-0031 CX**

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**March, 2015**

**Campbell Cattle Company / Buttermilk Land Company, LLC  
Grazing Preference Transfer**

*Location: Delta, Colorado*

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**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Uncompahgre Field Office  
2465 South Townsend Avenue  
Montrose, CO 81401  
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## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-S050-2015-0031 CX

PROJECT NAME: Campbell Cattle Company / Buttermilk Land Company, LLC  
Grazing Preference Transfer

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T. 49 N. & R. 13 W. Sections: 1,2,3,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,20,21,22, 23, 27,28 and 29; T. 50 N. & R. 13W. Sections: 25,35 and 36; T. 50 N. & R. 12 W. Sections: 10,11,12,13,14,15,16,20,21,22,27,28,29,30,31 and 32 N.M.P.M.

APPLICANT: Buttermilk Land Company, LLC

BACKGROUND: Grazing preference on Sawmill Mesa Allotment #14007 has been held by Campbell Cattle Company since 1985. The BLM has received an application from Buttermilk Land Company, LLC for the transfer of grazing preference on Sawmill Mesa Allotment #14007 based on the May, 2014 purchase of the Sawmill Mesa base property from Campbell Cattle Company.

The transfer of grazing preference is considered administrative in nature and serves to transfer livestock grazing privileges, with the same class of livestock and forage allocation, from one grazing preference holder to another. Approval of grazing preference transfers are outlined in 43 CFR §4110.1, and §4110.2-3.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: The proposed action is to transfer grazing preference from Campbell Cattle Company to Buttermilk Land Company, LLC. This grazing preference transfer is the result of a change in the base property associated with the allotment. Buttermilk Land Company, LLC is a qualified applicant under 43 CFR §4110.1 and §4110.2-3.

The grazing allotment involved and the associated grazing preference and season of use are summarized in the table below.

Allotment Name & No.	Percent Public Land	Active AUM's	Suspended AUM's	Permitted AUM's	Permitted Season of Use
Sawmill Mesa #14007	93	618	197	815	5/14 -6/5 11/15 – 1/31

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with (43 CFR §1610.5) the following plan:

Name of Plan: Uncompahgre Basin Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: July, 1989

Decision Number/Page: Page 15

Decision Language: In Management Unit 2 Livestock grazing will continue at current forage allocation levels and seasons of use unless studies determine adjustments are needed.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The proposed action qualifies as a Categorical Exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, Number D.1, which allows "approval of transfers of grazing preference". This is the administrative approval of grazing preference transfer applications.

None of the following exceptions in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

Exclusion	YES	NO
1. Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.	___	<u>X</u>
2. Have adverse effects on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands, floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	___	<u>X</u>
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.	___	<u>X</u>
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	___	<u>X</u>
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	___	<u>X</u>
6. Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	___	<u>X</u>
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places.	___	<u>X</u>

8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species. \_\_\_ X
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. \_\_\_ X
10. Have disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations. \_\_\_ X
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites. \_\_\_ X
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species. \_\_\_ X

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	Title
Glade Hadden	Archeologist
Missy Siders	Wildlife and T&E Biologist

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: There are no known Cultural Resource concerns for this project. Inventory is not required under the provision of BLM Manual 8110.23B4 and the 2014 BLM/Colorado State Protocol.

Native American Religious Concerns: There are none known or anticipated for this undertaking.

Threatened and Endangered Species: Transfer of grazing preference will have no direct or indirect impact. This action is an administrative action to transfer base property on the permit. The Sawmill Mesa allotment is occupied by the threatened Colorado Hookless Cactus. While the action of transferring the permit does not impact the cactus the action of livestock grazing does have affects. BLM formally consulted the Fish and Wildlife Service and made an adverse effect determination for livestock grazing and associated management activities for the cactus. FWS issued a BO on November 15, 2012 and arrived at a no jeopardy determination based on the implementation of the conservation measures identified in the BO (ES/GJ-6-C0-12-F-006, TAILS 06E24100-2012-F-0020). To date those conservation measures have not been implemented because the permits are currently issued under the appropriations rider which

prohibits changes to the permit after issuance under the rider. The appropriate conservation measures will be added to the term permit upon full processing of the permit.

NAME OF PREPARER: Lynae Rogers

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Jedd Sondergard

DATE: 3/6/15

DECISION AND RATIONALE:

I have reviewed this Categorical Exclusion and have decided to approve the administrative transfer of grazing preference from Campbell Cattle Company to Buttermilk Land Company, LLC.

There are no impacts to public land since the transfer action only results in a transfer of grazing preference. The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, Section: D, Range Management, Number 1, which allows "approval of transfers of grazing preference". I have evaluated the action relative to the 12 criteria listed above and have determined that it does not represent an exception and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: Barbara Sharrow

Barbara Sharrow  
Field Manager  
Uncompahgre Field Office

DATE SIGNED: 3-24-15





